IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

politant: Sabine Neirynck) PATENT)

Serial No.: 09/498,046) Attorney Docket) VIB-103.0

Filing Date: February 4, 2000) (1769/97843)

For: NEW IMMUNOPROTECTIVE)

INFLUENZA ANTIGEN AND) Group Art No.

ITS USE IN VACCINATION) 1648

Examiner: Stacy Brown Chen)

Mail Stop: RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please do not enter the amendments mailed January 23, 2006, and rather amend the above-identified application as follows prior to examination.

This is in further response to the Final Action mailed July 21, 2005, the Notice of Appeal mailed January 23, 2006, and the Advisory Action mailed January 31, 2006.